

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace ¶ [00016] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[00016] As illustrated, the cross member 10 is mounted generally between the rear wheels of the assembled vehicle. Various vehicle components are mounted within or on the cross member 10 in the assembled vehicle. The cross member 10 has a "tunnel" structure, which provides a hollow interior which may be used to house the vehicle power train and associated mechanisms that are operatively connected to the rear wheels. As shown in FIG. 1, a central opening 18 is formed in the front of the cross member 10 to accommodate a portion 19 of the power train. One or more control arms 20,22, a suspension assembly 24 for each wheel, and portions of the vehicle body are illustrated as being mounted on the ends of the cross member 10. Vehicle floor structure 26,28 and various other vehicle components (e. g. , seat risers) may be mounted to and/or partially supported by the cross member 10.